

101 COLUMBIA ROAD P O BOX 2245 MORRISTOWN, NJ 07962-2245 COX, CASSANDRA F

PAPER NUMBER

ART UNIT 2816

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

•	_				
Same to		Application I	No.	Applicant(s)	
		09/751,610		HARRIS, WILLIAM A.	
	Offic Action Summary	Examiner		Art Unit	
		Cassandra C		2816	
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply					
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).  - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).  Status					
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>02 December 2002</u> .					
2a) <u></u> □	This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b)⊠ Th	ion is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) This action is non-final.			
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims					
4)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-3,20 and 21</u> is/are pending in the application.					
4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.					
5) Claim(s) is/are allowed.					
6)⊠ Claim(s) <u>1-3,20 and 21</u> is/are rejected.					
7) Claim(s) is/are objected to.					
8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.					
Application Papers					
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.					
10) $igotimes$ The drawing(s) filed on <u>02 December 2002</u> is/are: a) $igotimes$ accepted or b) $igodiu$ objected to by the Examiner.					
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).					
11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.					
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.					
12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.					
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120					
13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).					
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:					
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.					
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No					
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.					
14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).					
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.  15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.					
Attachment(s)					
2) Notic	te of References Cited (PTO-892) te of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) mation Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s)	5)		y (PTO-413) Paper No(s) Patent Application (PTO-152)	

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- 2. Claims 1 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Moreau (U.S. Patent No. 4,282,493).

In reference to claim 1, Moreau discloses in Figures 2 and 5, a circuit for dividing an input clock signal into N clock signals having a relative phase separation of 360°/2N, where N is a positive integer, the circuit comprising: a phase lock loop circuit (201) receiving an input signal having a frequency F<sub>0</sub> and providing an output signal (the output of level converter 206) having a frequency 2NF<sub>0</sub>; and a Johnson counter (207) having N stages connected to receive as an input the output signal (the output of level converter 206) of the phase lock loop circuit and providing an output signal (OUTPUT A, OUTPUT B; Fig. 5) as an error signal to the phase lock loop circuit (the output of 207); the Johnson counter (207) also connected for providing at least two output signals (OUTPUT A, OUTPUT B; Fig. 5) from at least two of the N stages of the Johnson counter (207) as clock signals each having a phase displaced from the phase of the other 360°/2N (column 7, lines 23-27). The same applies to claim 20, wherein the multistage counting circuit is seen to be the Johnson counter (207) and the clock generator is seen to be the oscillator (205).

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## Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 4. Claims 2-3 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moreau (U.S. Patent No. 4,282,493).

In reference to claim 2, Moreau discloses all of the limitations of the claim as mentioned above with reference to claim 1, except that Moreau does not disclose that N is equal to 4. However, this is seen to be a design expedient dependent on the particular environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the value of N could be any number including 4, dependent on the particular environment and the desired results of the circuit. The same applies to claims 3 and 21.

## Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cassandra Cox whose telephone number is 703-306-5735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM and on alternate Fridays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Callahan can be reached on (703)-308-4876. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-

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872-9318 for regular communications and 703-872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

CC

February 21, 2003

MOTHY P. CALLAHAN

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